

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 05369

USEEC

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, EEC
SUBJECT: LOME CONVENTION: POSSIBLE ENLARGEMENT OF
MEMBERSHIP

REF: (A) 76 EC BRUSSELS 2262 (B) 76 STATE 72298
(C) 74 STATE 223672 (D) 77 BRUSSELS 14569

1. WITH PREPARATION OF EC-ACP NEGOTIATING MANDATES FOR
RENEWAL OF LOME CONVENTION NOW UNDERWAY (AND ACTUAL
NEGOTIATIONS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR), QUES-
TION OF POSSIBLE ENLARGEMENT OF LDC MEMBERSHIP UNDER
"LOME II" (DUE TO ENTER INTO FORCE IN 1980) ARISES. THIS
QUESTION MAY BE OF SOME IMPORTANCE GIVEN GEOGRAPHIC LIMIT
CRITERIA ESTABLISHED UNDER CASEY-SOAMES UNDERSTANDING
DATING BACK TO 1973. BY THIS UNDERSTANDING, US ACCEPTED
EC PREFERENTIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH FORMER COLONIAL AREAS,
AS WELL AS WITH AREAS OF AFRICA THEN UNDER COLONIAL OR
IRREGULAR CONTROL (PORTUGUESE COLONIES AND RHODESIA)
SHOULD THESE LATTER AREAS (A) BECOME INDEPENDENT, AND (B)
SEEK EC ASSOCIATE STATUS.

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2. WHILE PROSPECTIVE CANDIDACIES OF MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA,
SHOULD THEY ARISE (REF D), SEEM TO BE COVERED BY CASEY-
SOAMES UNDERSTANDING (PARA 4, REF A), POSSIBLE EVENTUAL
ACCESSION BY HAITI (PARAS 3 AND 4 BELOW) WOULD POSE A DIF-
FERENT ORDER OF PROBLEM. IN 1974, DEPARTMENT'S VIEW
(REF C) WAS THAT US WOULD OBJECT IF EC WERE TO ACCEPT

HAITI'S REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN ACP GROUP, SINCE: (A) US INTEREST IS TO SEE EC RELATIONS WITH LDC'S EVOLVE AWAY FROM A PATTERN OF TRADE PREFERENCES, TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF "GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY"; AND (B) EC COMMISSION APPARENTLY ACCEPTED US VIEW THAT ASSOCIATION STATUS SHOULD NOT BE EXTENDED TO COUNTRIES OTHER THAN FORMER COLONIAL AREAS IN AFRICA, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC. ANOTHER REASON FOR US OPPOSITION TO HAITIAN ASSOCIATION WAS DESIRE TO SEE EC REMAIN CONSISTENT IN FACE OF STRONG CONCURRENT PRESSURE ON COMMUNITY FROM IRAN FOR PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, EC-IRAN RELATIONSHIP STILL REMAINS UNSETTLED AND THUS PRESUMABLY WOULD AGAIN NEED TO BE EXAMINED AS A FACTOR IN REVIEWING USG POSITION ON HAITIAN CASE.

3. DURING RECENT INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MISSION OFFICER, COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THAT HAITI STILL DESIRES TO ACCEDE TO LOME CONVENTION. ONE DG-VIII OFFICIAL (JEAN-CLAUDE MULLER) HAS ASKED US, ON A "PERSONAL BASIS", WHAT THE USG POSITION ON A HAITIAN CANDIDACY WOULD BE. (FYI: MISSION HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT MULLER'S TRIAL BALLOON MAY HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY TRINIDAD'S AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS, WITH WHOM HE HAS CLOSE PERSONAL TIES. END FYI.)

4. SEPARATELY, A UK PERMDEL OFFICIAL INFORMED A MISSION
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OFFICER THAT LATE IN 1977 HAITIAN EMBASSY HERE ADDRESSED A CIRCULAR NOTE TO EC-9 ADVISING COMMUNITY OF ITS DESIRE TO JOIN LOME CONVENTION. THE NINE APPARENTLY SENT A COORDINATED REPLY WHICH SIMPLY "ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT" OF EMBASSY'S NOTE. WE GATHER FROM UK OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS THAT THERE IS A GENERAL LACK OF ENTHUSIASM ON PART OF EC-9 FOR HAITIAN ACCESSION TO LOME CONVENTION.

5. MISSION ASSUMES THAT US POSITION ON HAITI'S ACCESSION TO LOME REMAINS AS OUTLINED IN REF C. WHILE, GIVEN THE APPARENT RELUCTANCE OF EC MEMBER STATES TO ACCEPT HAITI'S LOME ADHERENCE, MISSION WILL NOT SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE KNOWN US OPPOSITION, WE SHALL RESPOND TO ANY FURTHER COMMISSION INQUIRIES ALONG THE LINES OF REF C UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY. MORRIS

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